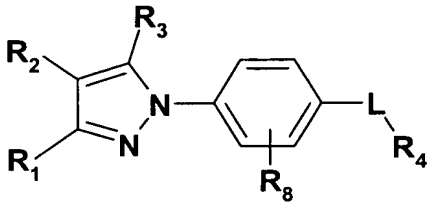
LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of treating a condition caused by endothelial dysfunction chosen from insulin resistance syndrome, hypertension, angina, ischemia, ischemic stroke, renal disease and Raynaud's disease , said method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I:



(I)

wherein:

$\mathbf{R_1}$ and $\mathbf{R_3}$ are the same or different and each is CF_3, halogen, CN, C_{1-8} alkyl or branched alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl or C_{3-8} branched alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl or C_{3-8} branched alkynyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl optionally substituted with OH, CN or methoxy, C_{1-8} alkyloxy, C_{1-4} alkyloxyC_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-8} alkylthio, C_{1-4} alkylthioC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-8} dialkylamino, C_{1-4} dialkylaminoalkyl, $CO_2\mathbf{R_5}$ where $\mathbf{R_5}$ is C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{2-4} alkenyl optionally substituted with carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl, aryl or $\mathbf{R_1}$ ~~and $\mathbf{R_3}$ are~~ is heterocyclyl connected to the pyrazole in any position that makes a stable bond optionally substituted with halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, CN, $(CH_3)_2N$, CO_2CH_3, alkyloxy, aryl, heterocyclyl or $\mathbf{R_5}$;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is H, halogen or methyl;

L is -NHC(O)-, -NHC(O)O- , or -NHC(O)C(O)-, ~~-NHC(S)-, -NH-, -NHC(O)NH, NHC(S)NH, $NHCH_2$, -NHCH($\mathbf{R_6}$)- , where $\mathbf{R_6}$ is H, CN or C_{1-3} alkyl,~~

$\mathbf{R_4}$ is C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{1-8} alkyloxy, C_{1-8} alkylthio, C_{1-8} alkylamino, C_{1-4} alkyloxyalkyl, C_{1-4} alkylthioalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminoalkyl, C_{1-4}dialkylaminoalkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl each optionally substituted with one or more halogen, -CN, $-NO_2$, SO_2NH_2 alkylthio,

alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or $\mathbf{R_7}$ where $\mathbf{R_7}$ is phenyl, heterocyclyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxyalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{1-5} alkylamino, C_{1-6} alkylthioalkyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinylalkyl or C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylalkyl, each $\mathbf{R_7}$ in turn is optionally substituted with halogen, OH, alkyloxy, CN, COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, -CON(lower alkyl)$_2$, dialkylamino, phenyl or heterocylcyl;

$\mathbf{R_8}$ is H;
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when $\mathbf{R_3}$ is alkyl or $\mathbf{CF_3}$ and $\mathbf{R_4}$ is pyridyl, then the pyridyl is substituted except that the substituents on the pyridyl cannot be halogen;
and with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded: *N*-[4-(5-ethyl-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-nicotinamide; N-[4-(5-Ethyl-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]-1-methylindole-2-carboxamide; 4-(3-Cyanopropoxy)-N-[4-(5-cyano-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]benzamide; and N-[4-(5-cyano-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]-4-(3-[1,3]dioxolan-2-yl-propoxy)benzamide.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 and wherein:

in formula (I):

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is C_{1-8} alkyl or branched alkyl, C_{3-8} alkenyl or branched alkenyl, C_{3-8} alkynyl or branched alkynyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{1-3} alkyloxyC_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkyloxy, C_{1-3} alkylthioC_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-5} alkylthio, CF_3, heterocyclyl selected from tetrahydrofuranyl, pyridyl, furanyl or thiazolyl or aryl optionally substituted with halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, CN, alkyloxy or $(CH_3)_2N$;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is H;

$\mathbf{R_3}$ is halogen, methyl, ethyl, CF_3, CN, cyclopropyl, vinyl, SCH_3, methoxy ~~, heterocyclyl selected from tetrahydrofuranyl, pyridyl, furanyl or thiazolyl~~ or aryl optionally substituted with halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, CN, methoxy or $(CH_3)_2N$;

L is -NHC(O)-, ~~-NH-, $NHCH_2$-, NHC(O)NH-~~ and

$\mathbf{R_4}$ is C_{1-6} alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl selected from pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzoxazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzpyrazolyl, benzothiofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, quinazolinyl and indazolyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen, -CN, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl , $-NO_2$, SO_2NH_2 or $\mathbf{R_7}$ where $\mathbf{R_7}$ is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxyalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{1-5} alkylamino, or C_{1-6} alkylthioalkyl each optionally substituted with OH, CN, -COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, $-CON(\text{lower alkyl})_2$, dialkylamino, phenyl or heterocyclyl as hereinabove described in this paragraph.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2 and wherein:

in the formula (I)

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is ethyl, isopropyl, *n*-propyl, *t*-butyl, cyclopentyl, CF_3, ethoxy, CH_3OCH_2-, 2- or 3-tetrahydrofuranyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2-furanyl, or 2-thiazolyl;

$\mathbf{R_3}$ is CN, CF_3, Cl, methyl, ethyl, SCH_3, cyclopropyl ~~,~~ <u>or</u> vinyl ~~or 2-furanyl~~;

~~L is NHC(O),~~

and

$\mathbf{R_4}$ is a phenyl or pyridyl each optionally substituted with one to three halogen, -CN, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or $\mathbf{R_7}$ where $\mathbf{R_7}$ is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxyC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{1-5} alkylamino each optionally substituted with halogen, OH, CN, COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, -CON(lower alkyl)$_2$, dialkylamino, phenyl, morpholinyl or pyridyl.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3 and wherein:

in the formula (I)

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is isopropyl, CF_3, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is H;

$\mathbf{R_3}$ is CN, CF_3, Cl, methyl, SCH_3 or ethyl;

and

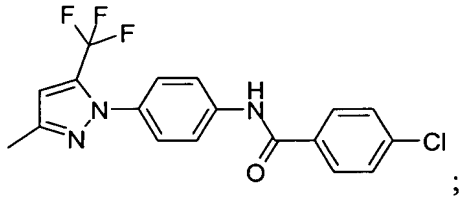
$\mathbf{R_4}$ is a phenyl or pyridyl each optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from halogen, -CN, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or $\mathbf{R_7}$ where $\mathbf{R_7}$ is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{1-5} alkylamino each optionally substituted with OH, CN, COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, -CON(lower alkyl)$_2$, dialkylamino, phenyl, morpholinyl or pyridyl.

Claims 5-6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to <u>claim</u> ~~claims~~ 1 ~~or 5~~ wherein the condition is hypertension.

Claims 8-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (New): The method according to claim 1 wherein the compound is chosen from: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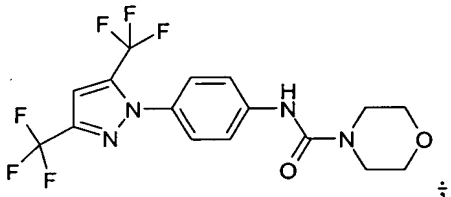
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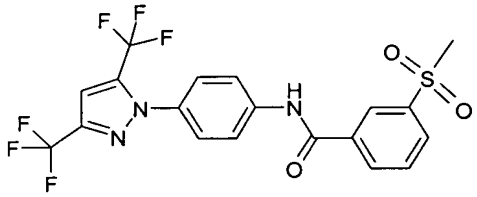
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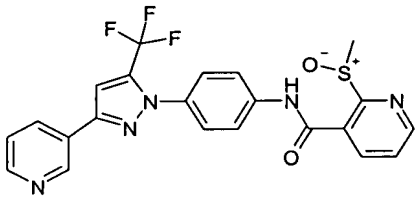
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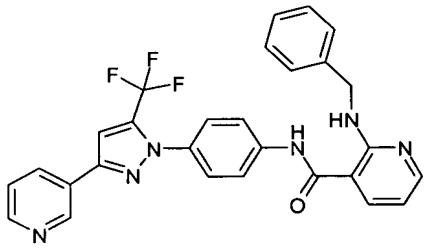
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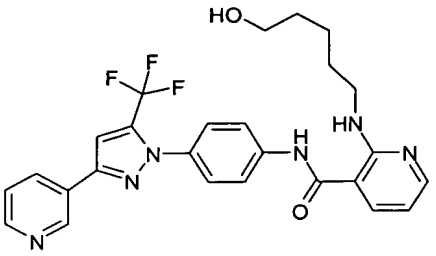
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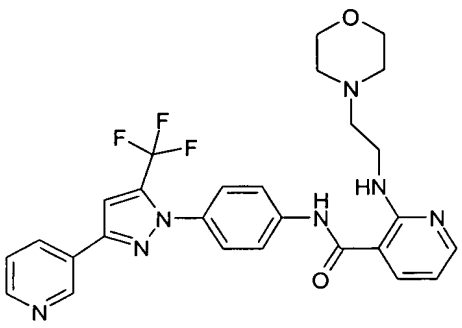
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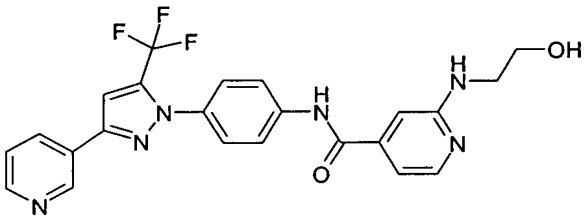
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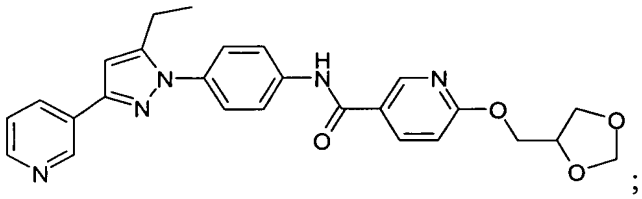
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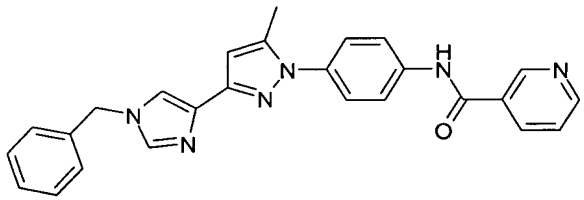
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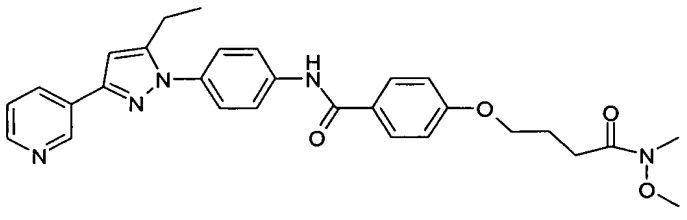
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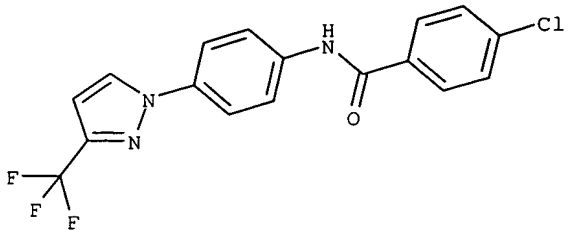
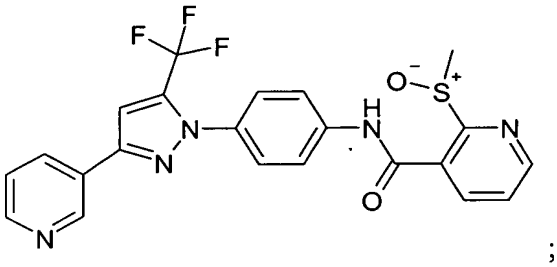


or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claims 1 or 7 wherein the compound is chosen from



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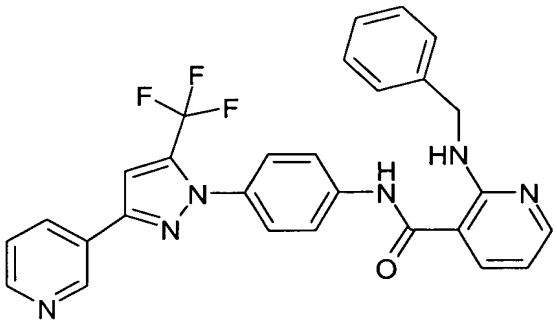

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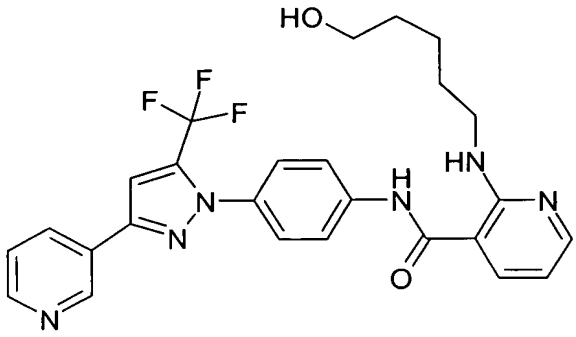

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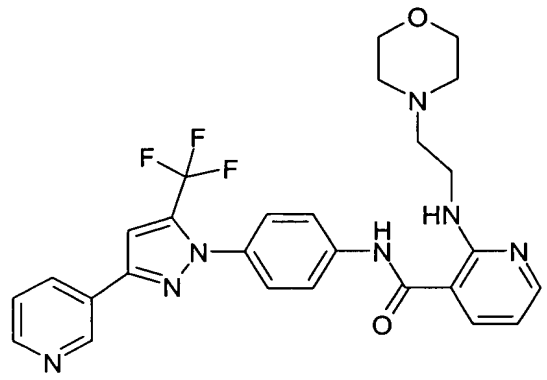

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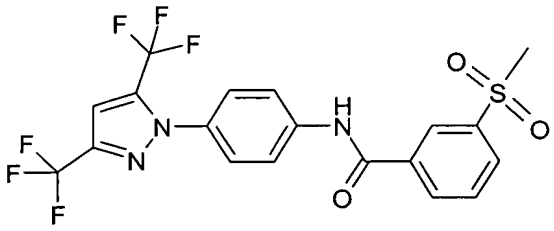

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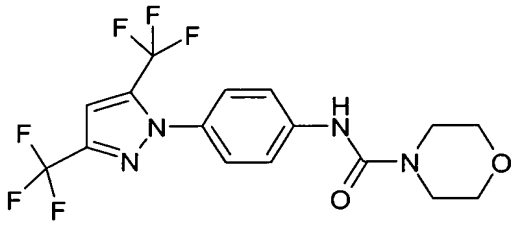

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.